demand and supply, load-shedding is carried out by the distribution companies as and when required, depending upon the availability and demand of power.

Shortcomings in power sector

3090. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the power sector is saddled with several shortcomings;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Power shortages, weak financial position of the utilities due to high Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, distortion in the tariff structure, overstating in utilities, poor metering, billing and collection efficiencies are major problem which power sector is facing.

(c) The Government has launched following major initiatives to overcome the problems of the power sector and to make it competitive and viable:

(i) Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with State Government envisaging support of Central Government subject to States progressing satisfactorily on agreed reform agenda.

(ii) Tariff determination by Regulatory Commissions.

(iii) Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for assisting States in investment in distribution network for reducing technical losses and improving the quality of supply and also for incentivising reduction of cash losses through cash grants.

(iv) Periodical ratings of State power utilities for assessing the progress of reforms.

(v) Accelerated Rural Electrification of villages and rural households and introduction of High Voltage Distribution

System (HVDS) for reducing power pilferage for reduction of losses.

(vi) Generation has been delicensed under the Electricity Act, 2003 and there is no requirement of techno-economic clearance for power plants.

(vii) Non-discriminatory open access has been provided in transmission.

(viii) Permitting stand alone systems for accelerating electrification of rural areas.

(ix) Open access in distribution in phases as per regulations framed by State Electricity Regulatory Commissions.

(x) Transparent policies regarding subsidies.

(xi) Development of national grid.

(xii) Promoting trading of electricity for better utilization of generation assets.

(xiii) Stringent legal provisions relating to theft of electricity.

(xiv) Emphasis on metering of feeders and supply to consumers for energy accounting and auditing for identifying location of high losses.

(xv) Application of information technology for improving distribution system and billing.

(xvi) Setting up of forums for redressal of consumer grievances and appointing Ombudsman for looking into non-redressal of grievances by the forums.

(xvii) Monitoring the Reliable Index (Rl) of power availability. To start with, it will be monitored at 11 KV feeder level in major 44 towns.

(xviii) Implementation of energy conservation measures. Bureau of Energy Efficiency has been set up under the Energy Conservation Act.

(xix) 50,000 MW hydropower initiatives for exploitation of hydroelectric potential.

(xx) 100,000 MW thermal power initiatives.

(xxi) Mega Power Policy for encouraging quick capacity addition of bigger generation plants.

(xxii) Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme (AG&SP) to support capacity augmentation through renovation and modernization and new generation schemes.

Causes of shut-down of Nathpa Jhakri Hydel Project

3091. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have analyzed the cause of the recent shutdown of Nathpa Jhakri Hydel Project on river Sutlej in Himachal Pradesh and also the bridge collapse at the Teesta Low Dam Hydel Project due to inherent environmental hazards;

(b) what is the rationale of building dams over unpredictable glacier-fed Himalayan rivers flowing through highly seismic and unstable rock formations; and

(c) whether India has any standing pact with China for constant monitoring of water levels of rivers in Tibet due to glacial-bursts?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) The causes for recent shut-down of Nathpa Jhakri Hydro-electric Project (1500 MW) on river Sutlej in Himachal Pradesh are heavy rains and flash floods in Sutlej river due to breach in Parechu Lake in Tibet. This also caused abrupt rise in silt content in the river water much more than the permissible limit of 5000 PPM because of which the machines had to be closed down as a precautionary measure to protect them from getting damaged. The bridge which collapsed at Teesta Low Dam Project Stage-Ill was a temporary bridge and was being dismantled.

(b) Hydro power projects are built after conducting detailed Hydrological and Geological Investigations. The Project location is firmed up only after analyzing the conditions at site. Site specific earthquake parameters are also considered in the design of structures.